

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising:

- a light-transmitting discharge vessel (10) enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space (11) provided with a filling of mercury and a rare gas,
- the discharge vessel (10) comprising discharge means for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (13),
- at least a part of an inner wall (12) of the discharge vessel (10) being provided with a protective layer (16),
- the discharge vessel (10) being provided with a luminescent layer (17) comprising a luminescent material,
- the luminescent layer (17) further comprising inorganic softening particles (27) with a softening point above 450°C,
- the size of the softening particles (27) being in the range from 0.01 to 10 μm .

2. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the softening particles (27) comprise:

- a borate and/or a phosphate of an alkaline earth metal and/or

- a borate and/or a phosphate of scandium, lanthanum, yttrium or a further rare earth metal.

3. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the alkaline earth metal is calcium, strontium and/or barium.

4. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the further rare earth metal is lanthanum, cerium and/or gadolinium.

5. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that the softening particles (27) are selected from the group formed by strontium borate, barium borate, yttrium borate, yttrium-strontium borate and calcium pyrophosphate.

6. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that the size of the softening particles (27) is in the range from 0.01 to 1 μm .

7. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, characterized in that the

inorganic softening particles (27) have a melting point above 600°C.

8. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that the protective layer (16) comprises yttrium oxide or aluminum oxide.

9. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that the protective layer (16) comprises:

- a borate and/or a phosphate of an alkaline earth metal and/or
- a borate and/or a phosphate of scandium, yttrium or a further rare earth metal.

10. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the alkaline earth metal is calcium, strontium and/or barium.

11. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the further rare earth metal is lanthanum, cerium and/or gadolinium.

12. (currently amended) A compact fluorescent lamp comprising a low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~ 2, characterized in that a lamp housing (70) is attached to the discharge vessel (10) of the low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp, which lamp housing is provided with a lamp cap (71).